GATT since 1991 to explore the interface between the two areas. This matter is expected to be brought before the Ministerial Conference of the Uruguay Round in April, 1994.

Export and Import of rice

1878. SHRI K.R. MALKANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is exporting quality rice and importing inferior rice ; and

(b) the sale price of superior rice and the import price plus freight (ship, road and rail) insurance and storage cost of inferior rice, per tonne ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The export of basmati rice is allowed freely and export of superfine non-basmati is allowed subject only an M.E.P. (Minimum Export Price) of US $ 200 per MT. During the period from April 1993 to November 1993, 3,20.908 tons of basmati rice valued at Rs. 648.92 crores and 1,47,520 tons of rice (other than basmati rice) valued at Rs. 126.70 crores were exported and 75,524 tons of rice valued at 55.26 crores have been imported.

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta).

Finance to Tobacco Farmers

1879. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to finance tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh to adopt varieties developed by the Central Tobacco Research Institute of Rajahmundry ;

(b) if so. the details of such a scheme ; and

(c) the steps being taken to assist tobacco farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Measures taken by Tobacco Board to assist the farmers include :

(i) Advising farmers through training programmes/meeting/publicity to adopt improved varieties and package of practices recommended by the Central Tobacco Research Institute.

(ii) Distributing quality seeds produced by Central Tobacco Research Institute and the Indian Leaf Tobacco Division (ILTD) of ITC Limited.

(iii) Tying up financial assistance with banks for growing tobacco.

(iv) Supplying coal at the barn-site for curing tobacco.

(v) Implementing developmental schemes for (a) improving yield and quality of FCV tobacco, (b) improving curing facilities, (c) supply of healthy seedlings. (d) training of farmers, (e) on-farm tests and experimental trials, and (f) development of new areas for FCV tobacco.

(vi) Planning crop size and conducting auction sales of FCV tobacco.

Export of Hybrid Jowar

1880. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra have approached the Central Government seeking permission to export seven lakh tonnes of hybrid jowar during the current year ; and

(b) if so. what is Government's reaction in respect thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) It has

been reported by the Office of Director General of Foreign Trade, who are the export licensing authority, that the Government of Maharashtra has been allotted a quota of 1.60 lakh MTs of Non-Fair Average Quality Jowar and 3.30 lakh MTs of Fair Average Quality Jowar and that no request for export of 7 lakh tonnes of hybrid jowar has been received from the State Govt.

Refusal to Release Marine Oil Subsidy of MPEDA

1881. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that MPEDA had turned down some fishing units for release of marine oil subsidy in Visakhapatnam ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) steps being taken to make the scheme flexible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir. No eligible deep sea fishing operator who has applied for assistance under High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil price reimbursement scheme has been deprived of it by MPEDA.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The scheme is functioning smoothly. However, any suggestion to streamline the procedure within the parameters of the scheme shall be considered.

Import of Consumer products

1882. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of foreign countries and the total quantity of consumer products like toothpaste, face cream and other goods which were imported during the last two years ;

(b) the foreign exchange incurred on the Import of these items during the above period ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to produce these items in the country and to save foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Under the current EXIM Policy, consumer products, like toothpaste, face cream etc. are covered by the negative list of imports and as such these are not allowed to be imported. Toothpaste and face cream have not been imported during the last two years. viz. 1991-92 and 1992 93. Import data of other consumer products which contains a very long list of items is published in the Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India, Vol. II brought out by DGCI&S, Calcutta which is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The liberalised policy initiatives being pursued by the Govt. are expected to boost up the production of consumer items resulting in saving of foreign exchange.

GATT Secretariat urging for market Access to India

1883. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Secretarit has urged India's trading partners to provide more market access for stable trading conditions for the latter to persist with its trade reforms ;

(b) if so, whether any suggestions have been submitted in this regard ;

(c) whether Government have examined these suggestions ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The report prepared by the GATT Secretariat for India's first Trade Policy